

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, September 17, 1969

*Baron*

Mr. Treasurer,

My purpose is to ask you to bestow upon The Right Honourable Baron Gardiner, Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, the highest honour The Law Society of Upper Canada has to give because he has done so much to reform and improve the law and has brought fresh honour to our profession. When he was at Oxford University, in Magdalen College, he was attracted to the theatre as an actor and could have won renown in that profession, but instead of directing his creative energy to the dramatic portrayal of the human condition he undertook to make it better by becoming directly involved in the development of the laws which control it. While still a student at University his rhetorical skill and uncommon ability enabled him to become President of the Oxford Union and later when he had entered upon his profession, to his persuasive fluency was added unrivalled mastery of detail and clarity of presentation. His formidable powers have been turned to the preservation of human life by the abolition of capital punishment, the encouragement of human happiness through the reformation of the marriage laws and the fuller participation by young people in the processes of government by the lowering of the age of suffrage to eighteen.

As Lord Chancellor he has brought about in a few years more progressive changes in the law than had been wrought in the preceding one hundred and sixty years, and crowned these remarkable achievements by bringing into being the Law Reform Commissions of England and Scotland so that the work of improvement will be furthered by constant attention.

Mr. Treasurer, I request you to exercise the authority vested in you by Convocation to admit The Right Honourable Baron Gardiner of Kitisford to the Degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.